



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

Date: March 15, 2012

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager
From: Mark D. Ahrendsen, Transportation Director
Harmon Crutchfield, Assistant Transportation Director
Gracie Chamblee, Taxicab Program Administrator
Subject: Citizen Matter – Paul Thompson, ABC Cab Company Switchboard

Mr. Paul Thompson, President of the ABC Cab Company Switchboard, has requested that City Council allocate funds to enforce the Passenger Vehicle for Hire Ordinance as written equally to all passenger vehicles for hire including shuttles.

The current Passenger Vehicle for Hire Ordinance as written allows enforcement for all passenger vehicles for hire, but due to staffing resource limitations within the Transportation Department, only taxicabs are regulated at this time. The taxicab program is staffed by one full-time employee and one part-time employee. At the request of the City Council's Passenger Vehicle for Hire Subcommittee, the Transportation Department has submitted for consideration in the development of the City's FY 2012-2013 budget, a new initiative that would provide resources for the enforcement and regulation of all passenger vehicles for hire.

The City Council's Passenger Vehicle for Hire Subcommittee has received recurring concerns from the licensed Durham taxicab industry that they are unable to sustain their livelihood due to the unregulated shuttles and drivers impacting their business on Duke University property and in other areas of Durham. During quarterly Subcommittee meetings, the taxicab industry has requested that the shuttles and other passenger vehicles be enforced to the same strict vehicle/driver standards as taxicabs are now and as written in the Passenger Vehicle for Hire Ordinance.